

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of The  
New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Commission**

**May 22, 2018**

The regular meeting of the New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission was held on Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at One Penn Plaza East, Board Room, Newark, NJ 07105.

Commissioner Dacey called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.

Open Public Meeting Statement

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Commissioner Timothy J. Dacey (present); Commissioner Brian McEwing (present); Commissioner Jacob Shisha (present); Commissioner Charles Wowkanech (absent)

Approval of the April 17, 2018 regular meeting minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner McEwing and seconded by Commissioner Shisha to approve the April 17, 2018 meeting minutes. All voted in favor.

Resolution #18-11 to approve the May, 2018 Treasurers Report

A motion was made by Commissioner McEwing and seconded by Commissioner Shisha to pass Resolution #18-11 to approve the May, 2018 Treasurers Report. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Dacey announced that at the request of the Governor's office items #10, 11 and 12 will be tabled.

## Executive Director's Report

- A. Hudson River Update - Since the Commission's last meeting, there have been no reports of transport jobs on the Hudson River.
- B. Docking Pilot Apprentice Selection Process - The Commission has received a total of seven applications and the Committee has decided to interview all seven. Because many of the applicants are either from out of state or work off-shore on tugs, it has been difficult scheduling interview dates. The Committee has interviewed three of the candidates thus far and the last interviews will take place immediately following the Commission's June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ms. Stuckey will forward the Commissioners a write up of each candidate after the last interview and plans to put a resolution with the Committee's recommendation on the July 17<sup>th</sup> agenda for the Commission to vote on.
- C. Maritime Pilot Apprentice Selection Process - Eighty one applications were received. The Committee reviewed them all to ensure they were administratively complete. Of the eighty one applicants, sixty four of them were approved by the Committee to proceed to the next step in the process. The next step is for the candidates to test and interview with the career counseling center. Once those results are received, the Committee will review them and narrow the number down to about fifty candidates. The interviews are currently scheduled to take place the weeks of September 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. During the month of September, Ms. Stuckey informed the Commission that there will be a light agenda due to her spending the majority of her time in Staten Island.
- D. Pilot Spreadsheet - As requested, Mr. Hawkins put together a spreadsheet with each pilot's name, Association, date of appearance and how many vessels they pilot each year with a running total for each Association. The spreadsheet will be updated each month to help give the Commission a better idea of how the trend in ship movement is shifting.
- E. Hudson Tank Terminal - Ms. Stuckey refreshed the Commission's memory on Captain Jonas's concerns with the

Hudson Tank Terminal and them not placing proper fenders around a breasting barge. She has been in contact with them several times and provided the Commission with photos of the barge without fenders and one with fenders that are too small. She has been assured that Hudson Tank Terminal recognizes their mistake and has ordered the proper fenders. Ms. Stuckey informed the Commission that she has direct contact information to the manager and he has assured her that they will take care of the issue and if for any reason the Commission is not satisfied, she should call him directly.

- F. Harbor Tour with Adam Sternbach - Ms. Stuckey was able to get Mr. Sternbach out for an informal Harbor Tour. Captain Oldmixon was able to set it up with very little notice and Ms. Stuckey thanked him for accommodating. She believes that the tour went extremely well. Mr. Sternbach got to see some of the terminals at work, the ongoing construction of the bridges from the water side and the new Ultra Large Container cranes as they were being lowered to fit under the Bayonne Bridge. He has expressed his willingness to go out on a full job once he is settled in and will join the Commission on the legislative cruise.

Mr. Strenbach reported that he had a great time and gained a tremendous amount of knowledge from the experience. He thanked Ms. Stuckey, Mr. Hawkins, Captain Oldmixon and Captain Foley for showing him a great time and he is excited to work with the Commission going forward.

- G. Pension Surcharge Meeting - There will be a Pension Surcharge meeting today. Commissioner Shisha and Ms. Stuckey will be traveling to Staten Island immediately following the board meeting. Commissioner Shisha will report to the Commission at the June meeting.
- H. Harbor Ops Meeting - Ms. Stuckey attended the May 16<sup>th</sup> Harbor Ops meeting and provided the Commission with a copy of the agenda. She gave a summary on some of the items discussed.

- Goethals Bridge - Yesterday morning the new spans on the Goethals Bridge opened and there are now four lanes of traffic moving in each direction.

- The city of New York applied to be named a Coast Guard City and was granted that distinction at a ceremony in April.
- The Carnival Horizon cruise ship will be coming to Manhattan on a regular schedule. The Commission received invitations for the naming ceremony on Wednesday May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ms. Stuckey plans to attend the event.
- Fleet Week - The kick off parade for Fleet Week will begin tomorrow. The parade is going to be a lot smaller this year. Ms. Stuckey believes it is because of the current political environment. Wednesday will be a busy day in Manhattan with the naming ceremony for the Horizon, the Fleet Week parade and the President will be arriving sometime that morning.
- Offshore Wind - An Update on the issue was given at the meeting. The issues with the wind farms revolve around safety concerns. The commercial industry is concerned about them being placed too close to shipping lanes and also when the wind hits against the blades it produces static that can affect a vessels radar. Ms. Stuckey provided the Commission with a copy of the email that Mr. Ed Kelly sent to the Governor's office outlining the industry's concerns. Since there are people in the Administration that are involved in this process, Ms. Stuckey doesn't believe there is anything for the Commission to do outside of attending meetings and staying informed. Ms. Stuckey informed Mr. Sternbach that if this changes and the administration needs the Commission to get more involved, please let the Commission know.
- Dredging Updates - The 50ft dredging project will begin in August and should be done by November. The 40ft dredging project is subject to the availability of funds and is anticipated to begin in January 2019.

The dredging in the Sandy Hook channel will begin in the fall and should be done in two months or less.

The dredging off Ward Points Bend is subject to the availability of funds, but is anticipated to begin by

the summer of 2018 and completed in the winter of 2019.

The Port Authority announced that the spring soundings should be released by the end of June and they are in the process of applying for permits to begin the maintenance work for PNCT, Maher and APM berths.

- I. Legislative Cruise Update - After the save the date cards went out, the Commission received inquiries requesting more information. The actual invitations will be sent out when Ms. Stuckey returns from vacation. She is putting together the itinerary for the evening and is looking forward to a very successful and informative tour.
- J. COTP Change of Command Ceremony - The COTP Change of Command Ceremony is on June 8<sup>th</sup> and all are invited to attend. It will be held in the parking lot at Fort Wadsworth at 11am. Ms. Stuckey strongly encouraged the Commissioners to attend. Captain Day has been a great advocate for the Commission in helping to ensure port safety. Ms. Stuckey is looking forward to working with Captain Tama and continuing the great relationship.
- K. Ms. Stuckey provided a copy of a note she received from Captain Day thanking her for participating in the leadership lunch series.
- L. Ms. Stuckey provided the Commission a copy of an email she sent to all the pilots with the current names and affiliations of all apprentices registered with the Commission. Moving forward, the Commission will send out an email with the name, affiliation and photo of any newly appointed apprentices.
- M. Ms. Stuckey provided the Commission with a copy of the Sandy Hook monthly apprentice training report. She advised the Commission that Paul Torres will be the next New Jersey apprentice to sit for his state exam.
- N. Seafarers and International House Dinner - Ms. Stuckey and Commissioner Shisha attended the Seafarers and International House annual dinner. It was a great event and well received by all that attended.

- O. Maritime Hall of Fame awards dinner - Ms. Stuckey attended the Maritime Hall of Fame awards dinner. She was impressed with the event and feels it gets better every year.
- P. Seamens Church Institute Annual Port Festival - Seamens Church will hold its annual Port Community Festival on June 28<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Stuckey will be volunteering at the event. She encouraged the Commissioners to attend. The event will provide good, networking opportunities with a lot of the Commission's port partners.
- Q. Articles of Interest - Ms. Stuckey provided the Commission with several articles of interest and advised them to read them at their leisure.
- R. Vacation Schedules - Ms. Stuckey will be taking vacation the week of May 28<sup>th</sup>. During that time Commissioner Shisha will be designated the 24 hour contact for the Commission.

#### Public Comment (s)

Comments from Captain John Oldmixon, President, Sandy Hook Pilots Association:

Captain Oldmixon reported that the Army Corps.is waiting for money to start dredging at North Point Bend. He feels that this issue is affecting the way they do their jobs.

Captain Oldmixon reported that New York City has been named a Coast Guard city by Mayor De Blasio and he believes that the naming is well deserved.

Captain Oldmixon reported that he expressed to Harbor Ops that the Maritime community is not against Wind Farms, they are just concerned about them being done correctly and safely.

Captain Oldmixon reported that there is a new Dry Dock ship yard on the Hudson River that will be handling a lot of the ship taxi's in that area.

Captain Oldmixon reported that he, Captain John Decruz and Captain Bill O'Neill visited the new cement dock opening at Hunts Point and things are progressing smoothly.

Comments from Captain Robert Flannery, Captain, Metro Pilots Association:

Captain Robert Flannery reported that he attended a Harbor and Docking Pilot meeting in Jacksonville Florida. He reported that he explained how the crane operations worked in the New York/ New Jersey harbor. There will be another meeting with other ports and they will come up with a standard crane operation guideline for the East Coast.

Comments from Captain Charlie Jonas, Acting President, Interport Pilots Association:

Captain Jonas thanked Ms. Stuckey for her involvement in getting the Hudson Tank Terminal fender issue resolved.

Comments from Ed Kelly, Executive Director, Maritime Association:

Mr. Kelly reported that the offshore wind is a crucial issue for the Maritime industry. There was an agency meeting with the Government on May 9<sup>th</sup> in regards to the issue. He reports that the Maritime Association is not against offshore wind, they are just concerned of the safety precautions that are being made to make these ports safe. He encouraged the Commission to address BOEM with a letter expressing the need for safety in the ports. Mr. Kelly express that he is concerned that the developers will come and address BOEM with European statistics that are not applicable to these ports and the New York/New Jersey area will end up with sub-par safety requirements. Mr. Kelly feels that this issue if not addressed, could have a huge economic impact in this port. After discussion regarding the wind farms, Commissioner McEwing will draft a letter to send to the Bureau of Ocean Management stating the Commission's support of the safety concerns expressed by the Maritime Association.

Mr. Kelly reported that he is on the Committee that is looking to bring the Precision Navigation system to these ports. The system is an upgrade to the current Noah system and he feels it would be a very helpful system to the Maritime industry if funding can be found.

#### Committee Reports

##### A. Investigation Committee :

- I. SBI Phoebe - Based on the investigators report, Ms. Stuckey recommended that the Commission find no fault on the pilots and the file closed. A motion was made by Commissioner Shisha and seconded by Commissioner McEwing to accept the recommendations. All voted in favor.

- II. YM Uniformity - Based on the investigators report, Ms. Stuckey recommended that the Commission find no fault on the pilots and the file closed. A motion was made by Commissioner Shisha and seconded by Commissioner McEwing to accept the recommendations. All voted in favor.

Resolution #18-12 to Approve the 2017 Annual Report

A motion was made by Commissioner Shisha and seconded by Commissioner McEwing to approve Resolution #18-12 to Approve the 2017 Annual Report. All voted in favor.

Resolutions Tabled for the June 19, 2018 meeting

At the advice of the Authorities Unit, Resolutions #18-13 to adopt an Operating Budget for FY19, #18-14 to Adjust Fees Charged to Maritime Pilots, #18-15 to Approve Personnel Actions taken by the Commission were tabled until the June 19, 2018 meeting as they require further research.

Executive Session

WHEREAS, the open Public Meetings Act provides that a public body such as The New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission may meet in closed session to discuss legal and personnel matters, and

WHEREAS, the Commission desires to meet in closed session to discuss such matters.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Commission shall at this time meet in closed session to discuss such matters the substance of the closed session would be disclosed publicly only if it would not warrant an invasion of privacy or constitute a breach of the attorney client privilege.

A motion was made by Commissioner Shisha and seconded by Commissioner McEwing that the Commission goes into Executive Session.

All voted in favor.

The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:47 AM.

Return to Public Session

A motion was made by Commissioner Shisha and seconded by Commissioner Wowkanech that the Commission return to Public Session.

All voted in favor.

The Commission returned to Public Session at 11:40 AM.



Resolution #18-16 to Approve the Upgrade of Captain Leonard M.  
Evans to a Pilot of the Second Grade

A motion was made by Commissioner McEwing and seconded by Commissioner Shisha to pass Resolution #18-16 to Approve the upgrade of Captain Leonard M. Evans to a Pilot of the Second Grade.

All voted in favor.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Shisha and seconded by Commissioner McEwing that the meeting be adjourned.

All voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 PM.